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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The SURPLUS PROPERTY ACT OF 1944 (Public Law 457) was approved by the President October 3. Under this law a 3-man Board will supervise the disposition of surplus war property. Subject to the supervision of this Board, the War Food Administrator or his successor will be solely responsible for the formulation of policies in connection with disposing of surplus agricultural commodities and surplus foods processed from such commodities. Actual disposal, however, will be made by the agency or agencies designated by the Board. The Act prohibits the domestic sale of surplus farm commodities at prices less than the higher of CCC disposal prices or market prices. CCC is permitted to dispose or cause to be disposed of, for export only, at competitive world prices, any farm commodity or product thereof, if not needed in the United States. The Board can dispose of surplus real property through any agency it may designate, but the Act provides that preference be given to former owners, tenants of former owners, veterans, and farmers generally, in the order mentioned.

The Act increases from 92-1/2 percent to 95 percent of parity the commodity-loan rate for cotton with respect to crops harvested after Dec. 31, 1943 but not to those planted after 1944.

The Act also provides that no property shall be considered surplus unless so designated by the owning agency. . . . The Board is required to facilitate the transfer of surplus property from one Government agency to another for its use. . . . Surplus property may be disposed of to local Governments and nonprofit institutions. Provisions are included to facilitate the sale of agricultural equipment in rural areas with the assistance of AAA.

In giving his approval to the above Act, the President issued a statement indicating a fear that this law will be difficult to administer and expressing the hope that Congress will later consider amendments which may be recommended by the Board.

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SURPLUS PROPERTY AUCTIONS. . . . Assuming that the regulations that are in effect regarding surplus property disposal will prevail until a Board is set up under the above-mentioned Surplus Property Act, several auctions of Defense Plant Corporation property have been tentatively scheduled: October 10, near Provo, Utah; October 13, Lawrence, Kansas; October 17, Carrolton, Illinois; October 19, Brenhan, Texas; and another at Mazon, Illinois; October 20, Burlington, Indiana.

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MILKWEED FLOSS HARVESTED WITH DISPATCH. . . . The St. Louis Post-Dispatch for September 10, devoted an entire page of its picture section to the "Milkweed and War" campaign. In addition to picturizing nearly every phase of pod picking, processing, and inspection, an excerpt from the

text says "Milkweed floss harvest has been under way in Missouri for some weeks, is now at the peak in most areas, and will continue in some 60 counties until after frost in October. . . Missouri's prospective harvest has been estimated at 60 thousand pounds or more after processing."

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The WAR MOBILIZATION AND RECONVERSION ACT OF 1944 (Public Law 458) was approved by the President October 3. It sets up an Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion under which will be the Office of Contract Settlement, the Surplus Property Board, and the Retraining and Reemployment Administration. The Act provides that OWMR will be headed by a Director and creates an advisory board to advise with the Director. This Act also creates the above-mentioned Retraining and Reemployment Administration to supervise and direct the activities of all the Government agencies except the Veterans' Administration, with regard to retraining, reemployment, and vocational education and rehabilitation. . . Authorization is given the Federal Works Agency to make loans or advances to States and political subdivisions to aid in financing investigations and other actions preliminary to any program of public works.

Upon signing this bill the President issued a statement favoring provisions which had been deleted from it to provide unemployment compensation for Federal employees, transportation for war workers, and more liberal unemployment benefits.

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SUBCOMMITTEE TO MAKE POST-WAR AGRICULTURE STUDIES. . . . The special subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee appointed several weeks ago to consider and recommend future programs and policies for agriculture has recently announced that it will make a study of these specific agricultural subjects: price supports, production control, soil conservation, parity prices and parity incomes, exports and imports, fertilizer, war surpluses, peace surpluses, rural electrification, prevention of use of farms as "dumping ground for the unemployed", new and expanded uses of farm crops, reforestation and forest protection, transportation costs, processing, flood control, water conservation, irrigation, ever-normal granary, school lunch program, marketing agreements, farm machinery and supplies, maintaining high level of consumption, farm-land values, farm-to-market roads, submarginal lands, nutrition, and special war-commodity problems.

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ON PULPWOOD PRODUCTION. . . . Having been advised that the demand for pulpwood will continue after V-E Day, a newly organized Eastern Pulpwood Industry Advisory Committee, have asked that farmers in the northeast and Lake States regions be urged to get out their available spruce and fir. Farmers in all regions, in cutting their pulpwood are encouraged to use their own trucks where possible to deliver their wood to a rail siding or to a mill, and thereby receive more money for their product. This will also help tremendously with the present shortage of labor, trucks, tires and gas at the mills. (WPB Release 6599)

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VICTORY GARDENS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC will be dramatized by Consumer Times' October 14 radio show. Listeners will hear a stirring drama of how our fighting forces learn to grow their own Victory Gardens in the jungle. A soldier, a sailor and a marine, from the South Pacific area, will tell about some of their more harrowing experiences.

OPA OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS. . . . A mimeographed statement has just been released by OPA outlining the general objectives, procedures, and services of the OPA Office of Agricultural Relations. The objectives, the statement points out, are to create clearer understanding and more wholesome appreciation by farm families of the purposes and operations of OPA, and a better understanding by OPA officials of the nature and scope of farming, and of problems associated with price control and rationing programs facing farm people.

Included among its various services the Office of Agricultural Relations will: (1) Make contacts with officers of nationwide farm organizations, building friendly relations and informing them of field activities and of cooperation this office is receiving from their local and state groups; (2) work closely with key officials in USDA, especially those having state and county personnel, such as FSA, AAA, SCS, FGA, and Extension Service; (3) with the assistance of the Research Divisions and the Information Department of OPA, assemble information pertaining to agriculture in a manner that can be effectively used by the Regional Offices and cooperating groups, such as county extension agents, teachers of vocational agriculture, FSA supervisors, AAA representatives, farm press, etc.; (4) encourage Agricultural Economics Divisions of State Agricultural Colleges to provide farm people with current facts about dangers of inflation; and (5) encourage each Regional OPA Administrator to secure for his staff an Agricultural Relations Advisor and to assist these advisors in making contacts within the Region and supply them with appropriate informational material.

Regional Agricultural Relations Advisers, the statement says, will work closely with District OPA Offices in contacting leaders of farm groups and representatives of State and Federal Agricultural agencies, farm papers, State Agricultural Colleges, and other groups that have farm contacts; make studies of any agricultural problem peculiar to the Region when such information is needed by regional officials; and work closely with Department of Information on programs of information for farm people, advising as to type of information needed and the best methods for reaching farm people.

A 5-page mimeographed set of questions and answers about the District OPA-Agricultural Advisory Committees is available upon request to your nearest OPA Agricultural Adviser.

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AG RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . WFA amends hog support provisions-3281; Wage ceilings set for potato pickers in two Idaho areas-3289; Today's Food Problem (a talk by War Food Administrator Jones before National Restaurant Ass'n., at Chicago, Oct. 12)-3311; Wage ceilings set for sugar beet harvest labor in two Idaho areas-3317; We Can Write Our Own Ticket (a talk by Secretary Wickard at Kansas City on Oct. 10)-3318; Orderly poultry marketing urged by WFA-3323; Cotton purchase and sales program-3283.

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OTHER AGRICULTURAL RELEASES. . . . Ceiling support prices for 1944 kraut cabbage crop--OPA-4829; Provisions modified which allow ration-free sugar for growers of sugar cane and sugar beets--OPA-4807; OPA reports on three-day conference with food industry--OPA-T2640; 1944-45 seed potatoes given dollar-and-cent maximums--OPA-4826; Dollar-and-cent producers' ceiling prices have been fixed for beet pulp products--OPA-T2645.

SECRETARY WICKARD is scheduled to give a radio talk about REA from Louisville, Ky., on October 9 at 12:30 CWT; on October 10 he will talk to the Future Farmers of America at Kansas City and later in the day to the Chamber of Commerce in the same city; on October 11 he will again talk about REA over the radio at Oklahoma City.

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LIVESTOCK PEOPLE PARTICULARLY, and the public generally, should find interest in the Farm and Home Hour broadcast for October 14. Charles Burmeister of WFA's Office of Production and Connie B. Gay of USDA's Radio Service will discuss long-time prospects for livestock supplies. . . Ruth Van Deman and Gay will give Homemakers News and Information.

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ROTENONE IS SCARCE. . . . The War Production Board recently announced that because of the extremely restricted supply of rotenone, earlier plans for releasing a limited amount of this insecticide have been revised. Although no rotenone will be available for flea control right now, a small amount will be available for distribution solely in tick-infested areas where human life is endangered by Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

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PRICING POLICIES IN THE RECONVERSION PERIOD will be discussed by Chester Bowles and an Industry Advisory Committeeman on the Blue Network October 12 at 7:45 p.m., EWT.

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